

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF STAND DOWN

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a national tradition that has helped thousands of America's veterans escape homelessness and recover from drug and alcohol dependence.

In 1988, two Vietnam veterans shared a vision. Dr. Robert Nachison and Mr. John Van Kuren wanted to take action to help their fellow veterans struggling with homelessness or addictions.

Dr. Nachison and Mr. Van Kuren developed a plan to hold a three-day event in San Diego to bring together the resources veterans would need to turn their lives around for the better. Their vision brought food, shelter, counseling, drug and alcohol treatment all in one place 17 years ago in San Diego. They called this event "Stand Down."

Dr. Nachison himself said he thought it would be a one-time event. He had no idea that within a few years, almost every major city in the United States would stage its own Stand Down or similar event.

Since then, thousands of homeless veterans across the nation have received the assistance they need and have escaped the streets because of the assistance at Stand Down.

Mr. Speaker, I attend Stand Down in San Diego each year and have met veterans who have the courage to seek help. I have heard dozens and dozens of moving stories.

Johnny Bonds, for instance, is a Navy veteran from San Diego. He began to drink heavily and became an alcoholic by the time he left the service.

Mr. Bonds was separated from his wife and young daughter as the drinking began to take its toll.

He lived for six years on the streets in Southern California and continued to drink heavily. In 1996, he attended the annual Stand Down in San Diego seeking food and shelter for the night.

He had no idea Stand Down would completely change his life.

Over the three days, he learned of a drug and alcohol treatment program administered by the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego. He enrolled and completed the program within a few months.

Mr. Bonds, now 52 years old, has been sober for years and never again spent one night on the streets. He has maintained a full-time job.

He was also reunited with his daughter after 20 years apart. Today, he visits her on a regular basis.

Mr. Bonds' story is not uncommon. Stand Down provides our homeless veterans with a tremendous opportunity.

Since 1988, thousands of veterans have taken advantage of this opportunity and are living better lives today.

I am introducing a resolution honoring Dr. Robert Nachison and Mr. John Van Kuren for acting on their vision and for providing thousands of veterans with another chance at life.

This resolution also recognizes the veterans who attend Stand Down and who have the courage to do what it takes to live productive lives.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HAITIAN COUP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, March 1st marked a solemn anniversary for the people of Haiti. It was the first anniversary of the forced removal of the President Jean Bertrand Aristide, the nation's democratically elected leader. In many ways, conditions are worse since Aristide's removal because of the widespread destabilization and human-rights violations perpetrated by the lawless elements which overthrew the Aristide government.

There is presently increased violence in Haiti as Aristide supporters have intensified protests demanding his return from exile in South Africa. The protests have resulted in armed conflicts involving street gangs, police, U.N. peacekeepers, and protesters, killing more than 250 people.

A telling statistic is that since Aristide fell, more people have been killed in one year than were killed in the three years of Aristide's government. To add to the political crisis, Haiti has suffered natural disasters which have created economic devastation in the country. Flooding devastated Haiti in May and September, killing thousands. Instability has hampered the delivery of humanitarian aid, which is critical to a country where 80 percent of the population lives below the absolute poverty line of \$150 per year.

As we mark this anniversary of the overthrow of President Aristide, it is helpful to look at how it occurred. After months of increasing tension and instability, the Haitian conflict came to a head in March of 2004. With rebel forces moving toward the capital of Port-au-Prince, and no support from the United States, or France, the country's President Jean Bertrand Aristide was forced to leave the country.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre was sworn in as President on February 29 in accordance with a constitutionally mandated succession plan. Regardless, the events surrounding Aristide's departure precipitated an upsurge in violence and instability in the country.

It should be pointed out that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) had sought to mediate the situation before Aristide's removal. It had called for a tripartite commission, consisting of one representative each from Aristide's Lavalas party, the civil opposition,

and the international community. The proposal was accepted by Aristide, but rejected by the opposition. Interestingly, after Aristide's removal, the opposition accepted a similar proposal.

This was not taken lightly by CARICOM, which viewed the opposition's initial rejection of the proposal as proof that they were solely interested in ousting Aristide. As a result, CARICOM has refused to recognize the current government and still views Aristide as the legitimate leader of Haiti. They have additionally called for a U.N. investigation into Aristide's removal.

In addition, several Congressmen, including myself and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have criticized the Bush Administration for President Aristide's forced departure from Haiti. As we see it, the Bush Administration refused to provide any assistance to stop the escalating violence in Haiti until Aristide resigned. This has damaged our global reputation as guardians of democratically elected governments.

We have also displayed a willingness to allow democratically elected governments to be dismantled if they fall out of favor with our Administration. Many Congressmen have called for independent investigations into what amounted to a coup d'état, and the extent, if any, of U.S. involvement. This is vital, as the suspicious nature of Aristide's removal will no doubt continue to erode the credibility of the current Haitian government.

Concerns have also been raised about the civil opposition, collectively known as the Democratic Platform in Haiti. Many question the right of the civil opposition to participate in an interim government, given their rejection of political solutions that did not involve Aristide's resignation, including the one proposed by CARICOM and supported by the United States.

Many also question the degree of cooperation between the formal opposition and the armed rebels who forced President Aristide from power, though the opposition denies any link to the rebels. Observers have warned that if there is a link, the rebels will soon demand recompense for their assistance—mainly reconstitution of the Haitian military, which was disbanded under Aristide's tenure. Reluctance on the part of the current leadership to acquiesce could result in conflict.

In response to the crisis, the U.N. authorized a Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Haitian Prime Minister Gerard Latortue requested more troops from the U.S., to help the U.N. contingent in establishing security. With the exception of a 200 soldier humanitarian mission arriving throughout the month of February, the Administration has no plans to increase its military presence in the country, beyond its current contingent of six.

An agreement between the interim government, the U.N., and the OAS was entered into on August 23, 2004 to hold presidential, parliamentary, and local elections in late 2005. Members of former President Aristide's Lavalas party have threatened to boycott the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

elections in response to what they view as sustained and systematic persecution at the hands of the current government.

All this begs the question why did we allow this to happen? While the answer to that question remains a mystery, the crisis currently facing Haiti as a result of the decision to remove President Aristide from office will continue without any prospect of peace until a legitimate government is established.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF EDNA
F. MEYERHOFER OF CHEEKTO-
WAGA, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great Western New Yorker: Mrs. Edna F. Meyerhofer of Cheektowaga, NY. Sadly, Mrs. Meyerhofer passed away on February 24 at the age of 74.

Mrs. Meyerhofer was a loyal wife, mother and grandmother, and was a dedicated Roman Catholic, showing great commitment to her faith and to her community. At her church, North Cheektowaga's Infant of Prague, she was an active member of the Parent-Teacher Guild, the Bishops Committee, the Altar & Rosary Society, and Parish Life Committee. Mrs. Meyerhofer was also a Hospice volunteer, and served as a member of the Hanford Bay Association.

After working professionally as a secretary for Westinghouse Electric Corporation, like so many others of her generation, Mrs. Meyerhofer began work in the home, as a devoted mother of two daughters and three sons—a source of great pride for her and her husband George. Her two daughters, Mary Harris and Rose Tracy, and her three sons, George, Paul and Mark, are outstanding members of their own respective communities, and learned well at their parents' knees the importance of family, faith and community, as they seek to extend this family tradition to Mrs. Meyerhofer's 12 grandchildren.

While I regret not knowing Edna Meyerhofer well, I do know her son, Mark, very well. Mark serves honorably as Chief of Staff to New York State Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, and is well known and universally respected in his own right for his community, governmental and political accomplishments in the Town of Cheektowaga and throughout Erie County. Again, these were lessons undoubtedly learned at the Meyerhofer dinner table: that to whom much is given, much is expected, and that there is an understood responsibility to contribute back to one's own community.

Mrs. Meyerhofer consistently helped her community and those in need. In addition to her family, many other Western New Yorkers will miss her generosity, compassion and loyalty to her community. I thank the Speaker and my colleagues in the House for this opportunity to pay tribute to her memory here today.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-
SECESSION LAW

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the United States maintains and has maintained for several decades extensive commercial and cultural relations with the people of Taiwan. In this context, I am concerned about China's proposed anti-secession law. I understand that the premise of this law is that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. A further concern is that this law provides justification for China to legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is the worst-case scenario.

Consideration of this proposal is coming at a time when both China and Taiwan have taken conciliatory steps toward each other, including the initiation of holiday charter flights that begin in late January 2005, which are the first nonstop commercial air traffic across the Taiwan Strait in 55 years, and both China and Taiwan have signaled they might be willing to restart talks relating to the status of Taiwan.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, for they have lived under a full-fledged democracy and enjoyed the highest standards of freedom and human rights. In view of the importance of Taiwan to the United States, China and indeed, the entire international community, I urge Chinese leaders to exercise caution and wisdom and not adopt this confrontation and destabilizing approach to Taiwan.

We do not seek any military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait, now or ever. The government of Taiwan has signaled that it stands ready to discuss and negotiate any issue with China. Clearly negotiation is the most desirable approach, and I urge both China and Taiwan to continue progress in this direction.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX AFRICAN-
AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bronx African-American History Project which is dedicated to finding, promoting and preserving the history of African Americans in the Bronx, New York.

Fordham University's Department of African American Studies and the Bronx County Historical Society have launched the African American History Project in order to respond to the growing demand for information about Blacks in the Bronx from schools, churches and community organizations. The goal of the project is to create and collect the resources necessary to tell the story of African Americans in the Bronx and to get that story out to the public through lectures, media appearances, books, articles, public exhibitions, and documentary films. This important project has been operating for over two years. During that period its research team—headed by Dr. Mark Naison, Dr. Peter Derrick, Brian Purnell, Patri-

cia Wright, Delores Munoz, and Colleen McCafferty—have accumulated more than 100 interviews and catalogued countless personal records and mementos for preservation and public education purposes.

The Bronx is home to the eighth largest concentration of African Americans in the country, but unfortunately not much has been written about this diverse population. As a result, events such as the migration of upwardly mobile black families from Harlem to the Bronx in the 1930's and 1940's; the development of the Bronx's eclectic musical culture fusing jazz, rhythm and blues, Latin Music and Calypso; the rise of Black political leadership in the Bronx or the migration of West Indians and West Africans to the Borough have been missing from textbooks and oral histories. Now this history will be available to the world thanks to the Bronx African-American History Project.

Mr. Speaker, Aristotle once stated: "If you would understand anything, observe its beginning and its development." As a result of the extraordinary efforts of Fordham University, the Bronx County Historical Society, and active citizens such as Leroy Archible, Harriet McFeeters, Nathan Dukes, James Pruitt, Robert Gumbs, and the late Arthur Crier Jr., the world will be able to observe the beginning and development of the African-American community in the Bronx and thus gain a deeper understanding of its rich and beautiful history. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all who have been integral in the development of The Bronx African-American History Project.

REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, recent reports suggest that the People's Republic of China may embark on a dangerous path that could destabilize the region. The PRC may be seeking passage of an "anti-secession" bill in a careless attempt to justify use of force against Taiwan. As everyone in this legislative body knows, Mr. Speaker, the PRC has never decried force as a means to take control of Taiwan, and this sort of provocative measure only serves to further corrode productive dialogue.

As the democratic leader in the global world, we cannot stand for unilateral action by the PRC against Taiwan. To echo the words of the Taiwan Relations Act, "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means" is "of grave concern to the United States." As two productive, industrialized nations charged with helping usher the world into the 21st century, it is imperative that the PRC and Taiwan work out their differences through peaceful dialogue.

Given the recent tragedies that crippled South East Asia, now is not the time to threaten stability across the Taiwan Strait. If the "anti-secession" bill were to become "law", the prosperity of 23 million people on Taiwan would be threatened. The Taiwanese live in a thriving, multi-party democracy. We cannot allow the light of Asian democracy to dim under the threat of military action. I urge my colleagues find their voices and oppose the passage of the anti-secession law.